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NEWS RELEASE

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CITY OF ST. MARY CELEBRATES FUNDING FOR WATER SYSTEM WITH CONGRESSMAN RUSS CARNAHAN AND USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

In a ceremony on October 21, 2010, Congressman Russ Carnahan and Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the City of St. Mary. The certificate was presented in recognition of the City of St. Mary and their efforts to stimulate the economy by utilizing \$546,600 in grant funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) along with an additional \$849,400 in loan and grant funding provided by USDA Rural Development.

The city is utilizing the funds to install new water distribution lines and water meters along with constructing a 203,600 gallon standpipe. The city has entered into a long term agreement with the Public Water Supply District No. 1 of Ste. Genevieve County to purchase water. In anticipation of providing water to the city, the water district has installed a new water line to deliver water to the city. The city's current water treatment plant will be taken out of service along with two shallow wells. It is anticipated that the new water system will be complete and in operation by the end of the year.



Pictured from left to right: Vic Joggerst; Bob Burns, Representative from Sen. Claire McCaskill's office; Donna Martin, Rural Development Area Specialist; Janie Dunning, Rural Development Missouri State Director; Michael Hartman, Rural Development Area Technician; Ken Wolk; Melody Barron, Rural Development Area Specialist; Margaret Yates, SEMO Regional Planning Commission; Carl Wyatt, Mayor of St. Mary; Dennis Bovey; Congressman Russ Carnahan, Third Congressional District; Joe Fallert; Joann Donze; Bob Bartels.

"I am pleased to hear that with the help of competitive grant funds from the USDA, the City of St. Mary will be able to upgrade its water system and provide a connection to the Ste. Genevieve County water line," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "The updated water facilities in St. Mary will ensure that its citizens continue to be served with a safe and dependable water source."

"This project isn't just supplying this community with clean water. It is supplying this community with jobs and economic development that will provide benefits for years to come," said Rep. Russ Carnahan (MO-03), whose district includes St. Mary. "Not only will the people of St. Mary be able to count on clean, safe water for their families, they can count on a more efficient system that will save money for the entire community."

"On behalf of the City of St. Mary I wish to thank all the funding agencies for their help and support with this water project. Thanks to our Congressman Russ Carnahan for the Federal Stimulus grants that were needed to get the project completed. Special thanks to Donna Martin of the USDA Rural Development for doing the loan and grant from her agency and Margaret Yates of the Southeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission for helping us secure a Community Development Block Grant. We wish to thank our engineering company, Missouri Engineering Company and the Ste. Genevieve Public Water District for all of the time that they spent working with the city to get this project started and where it is today. We have had a wonderful crew from Schatz Underground laying the new lines and working so well with the property owners. Caldwell Tank has the new standpipe almost ready to take on water and it will be completed on schedule. The streets are being repaired and other items are still to be done. Special thanks to Alderman Bob Bequette and Alderman Dennis Bovey who were on the project from the beginning and to City Clerk Jason Martin and City Treasurer JoAnn Donze for work behind the scenes. As you can see there have been many people working on this project for the past (6) months and every dollar that is being spent on this project has created jobs and kept people working, stated Carl Wyatt, Mayor of St. Mary.

"This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of a community in providing essential services," said Dunning. "This project mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission of being committed to the future of rural communities. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from an adequate and dependable water system." Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for funding these projects."

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Donna Martin at the Area Office at the Farmington, MO by calling 573-756-6413, Ext. 5.

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